

ON THE WATCH TOWER.

"Caesar's Column" is the latest contribution to fiction in the field of sociology. Conservative thinkers will also declare it the wildest. The book has just appeared, and few have had time to read it. It will be interesting to witness the public's reception and hear its judgment of this book. Like "Looking Backward," "Caesar's Column" is a story of the Twentieth century, the year of action being 1988, but there the similarity ends. While the former depicts a state of society in which there are peace and plenty, and where equity and love are the ruling elements, the latter paints us a ghastly picture. In it democracy lies dead upon the plain, stabbed to the heart by avarice; the laborers have become slaves and the farmers serfs, and the rich are heartless and autocratic.

The story and civilization in America and Europe end at one and the same time. The final scene in New York city is one of horror. The masses revolt against the rule of the classes, and a quarter of a million of the rich and their supporters are butchered in the streets. Their dead bodies, mixed with cement, are used to construct a monument in commemoration of the death and burial of modern civilization. Caesar Lomellini is the brutal leader of the insurrection, and he christens the monument "Caesar's Column."

Of course New York has grown greatly during 100 years, and then has a population of 10,000,000. Mankind has made great material progress, and air ships and improved methods of warfare figure in the story. There is also the usual romance, and love, hatred and revenge play their regulation parts. The author does not present strong proof that he possesses a superior knowledge of economics, but he seems to think he knows whither modern civilization is drifting, and perhaps he is right.

Who wrote this startling book? There's the question. The publisher says it was written by "a man of wealth and high social position, who believes that civilization is on the way to speedy destruction unless its steps are arrested by a terrible picture of the abyss that yawns before it." "Edmund Boisgilbert, M. D.," is the nom de plume employed. The book is published by F. J. Schulte & Co., Chicago, and the author is said to reside in that city.

Why was it written? Let the following extract from the preface answer: "I seek to preach into the ears of the able and rich and powerful the great truth that neglect of the sufferings of their fellows, indifference to the great bond of brotherhood which lies at the base of Christianity, and blind, brutal and degrading worship of mere wealth, must—given time and pressure enough—eventuate in the overthrow of society and the destruction of civilization." "If my message be true it should be spoken and the world should hear it." "Believing, as I do, that I read the future aright, I plead for higher and nobler thoughts in the souls of men; for wider love and ampler charity in their hearts; for a renewal of the bond of brotherhood between the classes; for a reign of justice on earth that shall obliterate the cruel hates and passions which now divide the world."

It begins to look very much like 1890 will be a year distinguished for its labor strikes. The union carpenters' demand for eight hours is, of course, one of the prime causes; but that did not cut any figure in the strikes of the first three months of the year. In March there were eighty-two strikes, involving over 20,000 employees. Fifteen strikes, in which 5,000 workmen were directly concerned, were inaugurated on the first day of the present month. But May will be the leader of the year. The carpenters of Chicago struck on April 7. This exception to the general order for May 1 was sanctioned by the national organization.

And still they come! Rev. William Barry has an article in the April Forum which will put to thinking any reader, if he have not less soul than a pump handle. Here are a few of its terse sentences: "The struggle for wealth is turning out barbarians by the million." "The great host of the proletariat are told that there is for them no such thing as a right to work; much less have they a right to eat. All they have is a right to go into the labor market, there to sell mind and muscle for what they will fetch; and if the market is overstocked and capital shy or unwilling, they may betake themselves to the public highway, being careful to move on." "Neither millionaires nor mechanics will find a market on the day of judgment." "The social question cannot be any longer tabooed. It walks the streets in every tramp and loafer or industrious idle workman that rubs against us or asks for a copper." "The vast burden of poverty under which we are staggering is mainly due to the appropriation of public services, of social rights, by individuals who neither can nor do render an equivalent for them to their fellow citizens." "Abolish the monopoly of resources, now enjoyed by a few, and the nation would not be the poorer by the smallest fraction of any commodity at any moment after. But let there be a universal strike of all except the monopolists, and how long would society endure? There would be a famine in a year, in two, nakedness, and in ten the land would be a desolation."

The refusal of the carpenter bosses of Chicago to recognize the union is a monumental piece of inconsistency. Just think of it: President Goldie, of the Master Carpenters' association, an organization which denies absolutely the right of one of its members to act independently, says: "The bosses will treat with their men individually, but will not recognize the right of the union to dictate to them." Evidently, according to Mr. Goldie, sauce for the goose is not sauce for the gander.

Appropos of President Blackstone's utterances on the railroad question, a com-

AN ESTIMATE OF THE COST.

The Expense Involved in Securing Desirable Highways.

An interesting article on country road improvement is published in The Wheel, from the pen of "Viator," which cannot fail to interest cyclists and farmers who are carrying on a vigorous campaign for better roads. The most salient points of "Viator's" argument are given below: The American mind is nothing if not practical. The subject of road improvements has gained so firm a hold on the attention of our people that it is simply now a question of time, economic method and financial ability when the roads of the country at large will be macadamized; in other words, our ordinary disgraceful, wasteful, dirt roads will have become "foundation roads." To promote "a consummation devoutly to be wished," it is only necessary now to demonstrate the practicability of the reform, and to show that it is within the financial ability of the average township to have, without delay, first class roads to an extent commensurate with their necessities.

It has been settled by long, patient, costly and scientific experiment that the motive power of a horse on a "foundation" broken stone road is exactly double that of the same animal on an earth road in very good condition. The experiments of Morin in 1838-41 have established that beyond question. The saving in time is very much greater. The writer has himself recently seen a pair of ordinary horses trotting at the rate of six miles per hour over a macadam road, hauling a wagon containing 7,000 pounds (more than three gross tons) of crushed stone on a level grade.

How, then, is it practicable to procure such roads—at least in the majority of our older states?

We will suppose that the area of the average township is equal to three miles square, and that to put in touch with the great country road, and especially with markets and railroad stations, it is necessary to give it two intersecting "foundation" roads, making in all twelve square miles of improved road. Of course the existing roads would be utilized, but on this principle it may be assumed that these roads can be completed for \$4,000 per mile, and kept in repair for 5 per cent. annually of their first cost. This would give \$48,000 as the sum needed for which to issue bonds. The yearly charge would then be 5 per cent. interest on \$48,000—\$2,400; sinking fund, 1 per cent. annually, for thirty years, \$180; total, \$2,580. The repairs are not here included in the annual cost, because they are needed in any event, but under the present systems are completely wasted.

The outcome of the plan here indicated would be that as the sinking fund would liquidate the bonds at maturity the township at the end of thirty years would have at least twelve miles of thoroughly good road paid for, and which could be always maintained at a less cost than is now expended on roads that are sometimes well nigh impassable. But this is an infinitesimal part of the benefit arising from the improvement. In many cases the only reason why city business men do not reside in some choice localities is that they cannot have the pleasure of driving over good roads. Their settlement in any rural district at once causes the value of property to increase. Increase of population brings customers to the farmers' doors for milk, butter, eggs, fruit and vegetables. It establishes churches, schools, postoffices, libraries, and, finally, villages. So that in the pro forma case of twelve miles under consideration the certainty would be that before the maturity of the thirty year bonds at least double the mileage would be demanded and built.

The estimated price of \$4,000 per mile here given is intended to apply to six inch macadam roads based on the experience of building in New Jersey. But this figure is meant for roads that can be constructed by machinery. The demand for such roads has developed the fact that they may be so built by bringing together machinery that hitherto has been used separately and not to the greatest advantage. It is now seen that traction engines may be used in conjunction with automatic stone spreading machines and steam rollers in one continuous train, so as to actually build and perfect a mile of macadam road in from three days to a week, according to the distance over which the material has to be hauled.

A construction train would consist of first, a seven ton traction engine in the lead as hauler; next, ten to twenty stone spreading wagons, containing twenty to forty tons crushed stone, according to the amount of motive power employed; third, a fifteen ton steam roller, used partly as a pusher, which thoroughly compacts the stone just spread by the machines ahead of it.

Col. Pope quotes Professor Jenks as authority for the statement that "the Illinois roads cost \$15,346,000 in extra hauling, and reduce the value of farms at a distance from railway depots by \$160,000,000. If Illinois spent \$250,000,000 on good roads, the total interest on this sum would still leave enough of the sum now spent on hauling to build a new state capitol every year. Good roads would save the state its state taxes every year."

Waking Up to the Situation.

A bill prepared by B. Howard Haman, an able lawyer of the state of Maryland, is to be laid before the state's legislature at an early day. It provides for the appointment of a state road and bridge engineer at a salary of \$3,000 a year and \$2,000 for expenses, who is to make a report to the legislature of the condition of the roads and make recommendations as to improvements. He is to have a general supervision of the roads, and the commissioners of the several counties are required to consult with him before making any repairs or improvements costing over \$100, which shall be made by contract on plans and specifications furnished by the state engineer.

The legislature of Pennsylvania has formed a commission to inquire into the condition of the state's roads and to suggest means for their improvement.

Those Wanting Seed Potatoes

Will make no mistake if they examine my stock. Our CHARLES DOWNING is one of the Finest Early Potatoes that grows. It is a fine table potato the year around. Price 50c.

OUR ACME really ought to have been called the AEMERICAN WONDER. It beats everything on record. Nine Hundred Bushels (900) to the acre was raised last year on a trial patch.

The ACME is what is termed an early late potato, fair size and smooth and of fine quality. Price 50c per bushel.

C. M. SHAW.

Miller.

Too much rain. Sowing out is now the order of the day. Mrs. Riley Loring, a former resident of this township, is lying very ill at her home in Pawnee City, Neb., from a stroke of paralysis. Mrs. Piester, of Marseilles, is with her. George Hayes was the guest of Miss Ruth Rosworth last Sunday.

Mrs. Elma Spicer will spend the summer in Michigan with her uncle Frank. Forest Makeover will teach the Barber school this summer. Charlie, it looks selfish to see an old bachelor riding home in a double buggy and two young ladies walking in the rain behind. Next time you had better leave the old lady at home.

The Loring Sunday school which has been closed during the winter, was reopened last Sabbath. The following officers for the year were elected: Superintendent, Carr Rosworth; Assistant Superintendent, Frank Derby; Organist, Laura Conard; Chorister, Calvin Spencer; Secretary and Treasurer, Mary Gallagher. The Sunday school meets every Sabbath at 3 o'clock. All are cordially invited. MCGINTY.

Freedom.

If the present rain storms so continue it will be very unfavorable for farming. Next Saturday is school election day.

We wonder if Will Tucker will use his new buggy this season.

Tip Miller says he is going to have a new silk hat and oriental collar for a change.

A great many are complaining of sore throat at present in this neighborhood. We are glad Miss Louie Dobbin is again teaching in Munsontown district. Folks now pass by untroubled by the young "freshmen" in that vicinity.

Lodge every Tuesday night hereafter. John Dornay has a new patent on May baskets for the coming year. BLACK JACK.

"Don't buy a pig in a bag." Investigate carefully before purchasing. Harvesting machinery should be durable and light draft, and therefore it must be properly designed and constructed of first class material. Steel and malleable iron produce the best results in this direction. The superiority of Champion Binders and Mowers results from the fact that more malleable iron and steel is used in their construction than in others.

A lawyer and an editor stood on the corner and saw a man murdered in cold blood. The murderer was a rich man, and after committing the deed he said to the lawyer and editor "here is a thousand dollars for each of you, defend me before the court and the people for the crime I have committed." They took the money and defended him in their own way and defended him to their own profession. The murderer through their joint efforts was acquitted, but mark the result. The people said, "the editor is a scoundrel and did so for pay. Lo! we will stop his paper and no longer patronize him." And the editor, having used his money and there being no more murders, became a tramp. But as to the lawyer, "he is an able man, deeply learned in the law and deserves great credit for having obtained the acquittal of a man guilty of murder. We will give him our law business and pay him great fees." They made him a judge, and as such he sent his partner, the editor, to the work house, and said he was a bad man. Such is life. —Quincy Herald.

The Fire of Disease is Always Driven from the System by Swift's Specific (S. S. S.)

Do you feel that the terrible fire of Blood Poison is consuming you—that the poisonous virus is vitiating and corrupting your physical system—that it is invading your moral nature and stunning your aspirations for manliness and domestic happiness? Does the hideous nightmare face you night and day that you are a victim of this monster which has been on the war-path for five centuries, scourging the human race by the thousands and tens of thousands, and which is regarded and acknowledged by many learned men to be incurable? Then we say, come to us and we will cure you. Turn your back on all the old worn-out poisons, as mercury, potash, arsenic and like compounds so ruinous to health, and take S. S. S., which we assert does cure, and we are prepared to prove it.

Treatise on Blood and Skin Diseases mailed free. SWIFT SPECIFIC CO., Atlanta, Ga.

One morning twenty-one years ago, Daniel Thompson, of Moorefield, W. Va., was lying wide awake in bed after daybreak, when, as he claimed, he had a vision in which Christ appeared to him and told him he had fourteen years longer to live. A short time before the fourteen years expired, he said the vision appeared to him again, and said if he so desired he should have seven more years to live. Mr. Thompson replied that his visitor should do as he desired, though he did not wish to live and become a burden to his family. Mr. Thompson often spoke of these visions, and always said he would die March 11, 1890, not exactly on that date but somewhere near it. He died twelve days later.

Frank Hertz, a German glass-blower, is under arrest, charged with stealing a gold watch and chain worth \$150 from Charlie Crine. Hertz will be given a hearing before Squire Trenary Friday afternoon at 3 o'clock. M. T. Moloney is defending. Last Saturday night Hertz Crine and several others started out to paint the town. At a late hour they wound up at Lamey's saloon in Zulu. Crine quarrelled with one of the men and took off his coat and vest to fight. He says he gave the watch to Hertz, asking that he hold it until after the fight, and alleges he has not seen the watch since. Hertz denies ever having taken the watch and does not know who took it. According to his story, he was too drunk to remember anything.

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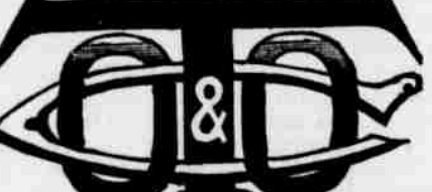
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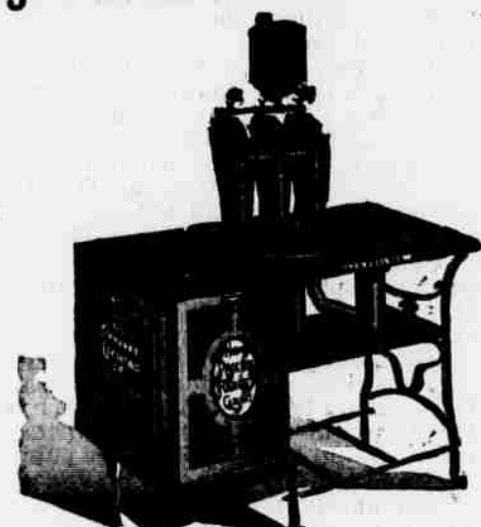
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